

CLAIMS:

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Claim 1 (Currently amended) A method for varying the size of a plurality of icon images displayed in a display device based upon a user preference value, said method comprising the steps of:

storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
selecting individual icons to perform variable icon sizing;
designating a user preference ~~values~~ value for each of the selected icons;
generating icon images of different respective sizes, wherein the different sizes of the icon images are based upon said user preference ~~value~~; values; and
displaying said different sized icon images.

Claim 2 (Original) The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 1, wherein said generating step further comprises:
sorting icon images into an order based upon said designated preference values.

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Claim 3 (Original) The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 2, wherein

said generating step further comprises:

calculating a size gap between said ordered icon images using the following equation:

$$(\text{max-min}) / (N-1),$$

D | where N is the number of applications given a preference, min is a minimum icon size and max is a maximum icon size.

Claim 4 (Original) The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 1, wherein said icon images of different respective sizes are located within a window.

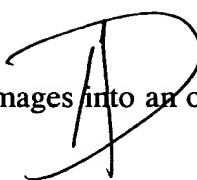
C | Claim 5 (Original) The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 1, further comprising the step of:


retrieving said icon image data from memory and scaling said icon image data in preparation for display on said display device.

Claim 6 (Original) A computer readable medium containing program instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
detect the selection of individual icons;
obtain user preference values for each of the selected icons;
generate icon images of different respective sizes, wherein the different sizes of the icon images are based upon said user preference value; and
display said different sized icon images.


Claim 7 (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 6, further comprising instructions to:


sort icon images into an order based upon said designated preference values.

 Claim 8 (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 7, further comprising instructions to:

calculate a size gap between adjacent icon image sizes using the following equation:

$(\text{max} - \text{min}) / (N - 1),$

 where N is the number of applications given a preference, min is the minimum icon size and max is the maximum icon size.

Claim 9 (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein said different sized icon images are located within a window.

Claim 10 (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 6, further comprising instructions to:

retrieve said icon image data from memory and scale said icon image data in preparation for display.

Claim 11 (Original) An apparatus for varying a size of a plurality of icons images displayed in a window of a display device based upon a user preference value, said method comprising the steps of:

means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

means for selecting individual icons for variable icon sizing;

means for designating user preference values for each of the selected icons;
means for generating icon images of different respective sizes, wherein the different sizes of the icon images are based upon said user preference value; and
display means for displaying said different sized icon images.

Claim 12 (Original) The apparatus for varying a size of a plurality of icons of claim 11, wherein said generation step further comprises:

sorting means for sorting icon images into an order based upon said designated preference values.

Claim 13 (Original) The apparatus for varying a size of a plurality of icons of claim 12, wherein said generating means further comprises:

calculating means for calculating a size gap between adjacent icon image sizes using the following equation:

$$(\max - \min) / (N - 1),$$

where N is the number of applications given a preference, min is the minimum icon size and max is the maximum icon size.

Claim 14 (Original) The apparatus for varying a size of a plurality of icons of claim 11, wherein said different sized icon images are located within a window.

Claim 15 (Original) The ~~apparatus~~ for varying a size of a plurality of icons of claim 11, further comprising:
retrieving means for retrieving said icon image data from memory and scaling said image data for display.

Q15 | Claim 16 (Currently amended) A method for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a number of files in the object, the method comprising the steps of:

storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
selecting individual icons for variable icon sizing;
determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons;
generating icon images of different respective sizes representing said objects, wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and
displaying said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

Claim 17 (Currently amended) The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim [15,] 16, wherein said generation step further comprises:
sorting icon images into an order based upon said object characteristic.

Claim 18 (Currently amended) The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 17, wherein [said generation means further] the method comprises:

determining the size of said icon by:

associating a maximum sized icon image with an object having one extreme value for the object characteristic;

associating a minimum sized icon image with an object having another extreme value for the object characteristic; and

assigning sizes to the remainder of said icon images with objects, in proportion to the objects associated with the maximum and minimum sized icons.

Claim 19 (Currently amended) An apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a number of files in the object, the apparatus comprising [the steps of]:

storing means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

selecting means for selecting individual icons to perform variable icon sizing;

determining means for determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects associated with said selected individual icons;

generating means for generating different sized icons representing said objects wherein said size of said icon is determined by said object characteristic of said objects; and

displaying means for displaying said variable sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

Claim 20 (Currently amended) The apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 19, [wherein said generation step further comprises] comprising:

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sorting means for sorting icon images into an order based upon said object characteristic.

Claim 21 (Original) The apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 19, wherein said generation means further comprises:

determining means for determining the size of said icon by:

associating a maximum sized icon image with an object having one extreme value for the object characteristic;

associating a minimum sized icon image with an object having another extreme value for the object characteristic; and

assigning sizes to the remainder of said icon images, in proportion to the objects associated with the maximum and minimum sized icons.

Claim 22 (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

detect the selection of individual icons;

determine [said] an object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons, wherein the object characteristic is a number of files in the object;

generate different sized icons representing said objects wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

display said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

Claim 23 (Original) A computer readable medium of claim 22, further containing program instructions to:

sort icon images into an order based upon said object characteristic.

Claim 24 (Original) A computer readable medium of claim 22, further containing program instructions to:

determine the size of an icon by:

associating a maximum sized icon image with an object having one extreme value for the object characteristic;

associating a minimum sized icon image with an object having another extreme value for the object characteristic; and

assigning sizes to the remainder of said icon images, in proportion to the objects associated with the maximum and minimum sized icons.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Currently amended) A method for varying the size of a plurality of icons images displayed in a container of a display device based upon a user preference values designated for at least some of the plurality icon images, the method comprising:

generating different sized icon images, wherein the different sizes of the icon images are based upon said user preference value and

[The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 26, wherein said generating step further comprises:

calculating] a size gap between said [ordered] icon images [using] is based on the following equation:

$$(\text{max}-\text{min}) / (N-1),$$

where N is the number of applications given a preference, min is the minimum icon size and max is the maximum icon size.

Claim 28 (Original) The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 25, wherein said container is a window.

Claim 29 (Original) The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

retrieving said icon image data from memory and scaling said icon image data in preparation for display on said display device.

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Claim 30 (Currently amended) A method for displaying a plurality of icons in a window on a display device, comprising the steps of:
storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
receiving a user command to display icons of varied sizes in said window; and
displaying said icons with different relative sizes within said window, wherein the different sizes of said icons are based upon characteristics of objects represented by the icons.
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Claim 31 (Canceled)

Claim 32 (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the different sizes of said icons are based upon a user preference value given to each of said icons.

Claim 33 (Original) A method for varying the size of a plurality of icon images displayed in a display device based upon a user designated size, said method comprising the steps of:

storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
selecting individual icons to perform variable icon sizing;
designating a different respective icon size for each of the selected icons;

generating icon images at sizes based on said designations; and
displaying said different sized icon images.

Claim 34 (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said different sized icon images are located within a window.

Q Claim 35 (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said designating step comprises the indication of relative sizes for the selected icons.

Claim 36 (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said designating step comprises the indication of absolute sizes for the selected icons.

Claim 37 (Original) An apparatus for varying a size of a plurality of icon images displayed in a display device based upon a user designated size, comprising:
means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
means for selecting individual icons to perform a variable icon sizing;
means for designating an icon size for each of the selected icons;
means for generating icon images at a size based on said designation; and
means for displaying said different sized icon images.

Claim 38 (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said different sized icon images are located within a window.

Claim 39 (Original) A computer readable medium for varying the size of a plurality of icon images displayed in a display device based upon a user designated size, comprising instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
detect the selection of individual icons;
designate a respective icon size for each of the selected icons;
generate icon images at sizes based on said designations; and
display said different sized icon images.

Claim 40 (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 39, wherein said different sized icon images are located within a window.

Claim 41 (Currently amended) [The method of Claim 16,] A method for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a size of the object, the method comprising the steps of:

storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
selecting individual icons for variable icon sizing;
determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons;
generating icon images of different respective sizes representing said objects, wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

DI displaying said different sized icon images representing said plurality of
objects.

Q Claim 42 (Currently amended) [The method of Claim 16,] A method for varying the
size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object
characteristic is an amount of memory that the object uses, the method comprising the steps
of:

storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
selecting individual icons for variable icon sizing;
determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of
objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons;
generating icon images of different respective sizes representing said
objects, wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and
displaying said different sized icon images representing said plurality of
objects.

Claim 43 (Canceled)

DI Claim 44 (Currently amended) [The method of Claim 16,] A method for varying the
size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object

characteristic is a measure of how recently the object was added or amended, the method comprising the steps of:

storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

selecting individual icons for variable icon sizing;

determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons;

generating icon images of different respective sizes representing said objects, wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

displaying said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

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Claim 45 (Currently amended) An apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a size of the object, the apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

selecting means for selecting individual icons to perform variable icon sizing;

determining means for determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects associated with said selected individual icons;

generating means for generating different sized icons representing said
objects wherein said size of said icon is determined by said object characteristic of said
objects; and

displaying means for displaying said variable sized icon images representing
said plurality of objects.

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Claim 46 (Currently amended) An apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of
icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is an amount of
memory that the object uses, the apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon
images;

selecting means for selecting individual icons to perform variable icon
sizing;

determining means for determining said object characteristic with respect to
each of a plurality of objects associated with said selected individual icons;

generating means for generating different sized icons representing said
objects wherein said size of said icon is determined by said object characteristic of said
objects; and

displaying means for displaying said variable sized icon images representing
said plurality of objects.

Claim 47 (Canceled)

Claim 48 (Currently amended) An apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a measure of how recently the object was added or amended, the apparatus comprising:

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storing means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

selecting means for selecting individual icons to perform variable icon sizing;

determining means for determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects associated with said selected individual icons;

generating means for generating different sized icons representing said objects wherein said size of said icon is determined by said object characteristic of said objects; and

displaying means for displaying said variable sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

Claim 49 (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

detect the selection of individual icons;

determine an object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of
objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons, wherein the object
characteristic is a size of the object;

generate different sized icons representing said objects wherein the size of an
icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

display said different sized icon images representing said plurality of
objects.

Claim 50 (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program
instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

detect the selection of individual icons;

determine an object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of
objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons, wherein the object
characteristic is an amount of memory that the object uses;

generate different sized icons representing said objects wherein the size of an
icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

display said different sized icon images representing said plurality of
objects.

Claim 51 (Canceled) The computer readable medium of Claim 22, wherein the object characteristic is a number of files in the object.

Claim 52 (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

detect the selection of individual icons;

determine an object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons, wherein the object characteristic is a measure of how recently the object was added or amended;

generate different sized icons representing said objects wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

display said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

Claim 53 (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the designated user preference values are different for each of the selected icons.

Claim 54 (New) The medium of Claim 53, wherein the designated user preference values are different for each of the selected icons.

~~Claim 55 (New) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the designated user preference values are different for each of the selected icons.~~

~~Claim 56 (New) A method for varying the size of a plurality of icon images displayed in a display device based upon a user preference value, said method comprising:
generating icon images of different respective sizes, wherein the different sizes of the icon images are based upon user preference values and a size gap between adjacent ones of the icon images is $(\text{max} - \text{min}) / (N - 1)$, where N is the number of icon images, min is a minimum icon size and max is a maximum icon size.~~